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Message Text

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /013 W
---------- 034688
R 162316Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0491

UNCLAS MUSCAT 0551

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ALOW MU
SUBJ: REPRESENTATION COSTS

FOR A, ASST SEC THOMAS

1. RE LETTER OF AUG 23, HAVE REVIEWED OUT-OF-POCKET REPRESENTATION COSTS FOR FY-74 REPORTED MUSCAT OM OF JULY 4 AND CONSIDER STATED SUM OF DOLS 707.99 ACCURATE FIGURE. COM FOR ENTIRE FY-74 WHO BORE MAJOR BURDEN OF THESE OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS AND OF ESSENTIAL BUT NON-REIMBURSABLE ENTERTAINMENT OF VISITORS AND STAFF NO LONGER AT POST WE ESTIMATE CONSERVATIVELY HE AND OTHER OFFICERS SPENT DOLS500.00 IN FY-74 ON THIS ESSENTIAL BUT NON-REIMBURSABLE ENTERTAINING

2. IN PLANNING FOR FY-75 POST IS CAUGHT IN BIND BETWEEN DOUBLING OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN PAST FIVE MONTHS EXCEEDINGLY HIGH AND RISING LOCAL COSTS FOR FOOD BEVERAGES AND SERVANTS AND TOTAL REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCE WHICH BASED ON PRESENT INFORMATION IS DOLS 1350 AND THEREFORE ONLY 73 PERCENT OF FINAL FY-74 REIMBURSABLE FIGURE IN EFFORT TO STRETCH OFFICIAL REP FUNDS. WE PLACED SPECIFIC PER-ATTENDING-GUEST LIMITS ON AMOUNT THAT CAN BE CLAIMED FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF ENTERTAINING THESE LIMITS ARE AT SAME OR SLIGHTLY LOWER LEVEL THAN POST'S OFFICERS EXPERIENCED IN ACTUAL FY-74 PRACTICE AND AS OFFICERS NOW ASSIGNED ACCUMULATE RECORD OF ACTUAL ENTERTAINMENT COSTS. THEY MAY HAVE TO BE REVISED UPWARD BASED ON EXPERIENCE FY-75 SO FOR WHICH COMPRISES ONLY REALTIVELY INACTIVE SUMMER MONTHS
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POST FORESEES THAT OFFICIAL DOLS 1350 ALLOWANCE WILL COVER ONLY

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ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF TOTAL FY REIMBURSABLE COSTS.

3. COSTS OF REFRESHMENTS AND SERVICES CAN BE EXPECTED
INCREASE FURTHER AS FY-75 PROCEEDS SINCE NEARLY EVERYTHING
CONSUMED HERE IS IMPORTED AND COSTS ARE REFLECTING
CONSTANT WORLDWIDE INFLATION REVISED DSP-23 UNDERWAY
AND PLANNED FOR SUBMISSION SHORTLY WILL PROVIDE DETAILS.
WOLLE

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